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PARENTAL SCHOOLS AND JUVENILE CRIME

cial authority to select and purchase a site for a new prison. The representatives of the people in the legislature have up to the present appropriated for the purpose of this commission a total of about \$425,000, and the money has been spent. The question now is whether and how soon, the state of Illinois will realize on the investment already made. The conditions that surround the prison cannot become more favorable than they are at present. Indeed they must become worse.

Other measures are important and urgent, and not all can be fought to a proper conclusion at once. In a case like this, however, delay is waste to say the least. Another session of the legislature must not be allowed to come and go without substantial progress being made toward the realization of the plans of the commission.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

PARENTAL SCHOOLS AND JUVENILE CRIME.

A bill is pending in the legislature of the state of Illinois which provides what is undoubtedly a salutary modification in the Parental School Law. It is designated as House Bill 749. It was introduced by the Hon. Mr. Rothschild of Chicago at the request of the present writer. It grew out of the work of the committee on Vocational Education of the Illinois Branch of the Institute.

At present the Parental School Law in this state provides that truants 14 years of age or under in cities of over 100,000 population may be confined in the Parental School. It is in the nature of a penalty which assists in the enforcement of the compulsory education law. Children who are beyond the age of 14 may not be legally confined in such a school. At the same time the compulsory school law in Illinois requires that all persons who are not legally employed must be at school even beyond the age of 14 and up to 16 years. To those who are legally employed at this time of life the compulsion does not apply. But since the Parental School is closed to such persons during these two critical years, the enforcement of school attendance is less practicable than it would be otherwise, and in Chicago alone thousands of such children are idle in the streets and breeding crime. It is at this point that House Bill 749, if it should become law, would perform a valuable service. Its effect will be to amend the present law by providing simply that persons neither legally employed nor in school even up to the age of 16 years may be sent to the Parental School. In the opinion of many who are in a position to judge wisely in such matters the amendment proposed would be productive of great good. It

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is to be hoped that it may be enacted. It has at any rate been favorably reported out of the Education Committee of the House.

In this connection it is proper to refer to an illuminating report of Mr. E. J. Lickley, supervisor of Compulsory Education and Evening Schools of Los Angeles. An extensive abstract of this report is published in *The Psychological Clinic* of May 15, 1913, pp. 84 ff., and from this abstract the following quotation is taken:

"The present compulsory education law in Los Angeles became effective July 1, 1903. In 1905 the school department took upon itself the task of solving the truancy problem by establishing a special school to which persistent truants were sent. This school very quickly demonstrated its educational, social and economic value and today the city has nine schools of a similar nature.

"To these schools none but the persistent truants have been sent and yet for seven years the attendance has been almost perfect, the average attendance for the entire time being more than 99 per cent.

"The reports for the past seven years show very clearly the improvement in the method of dealing with truancy. Before the special schools were opened all persistent truants were arrested and taken before the Juvenile Court. This was a very expensive and unsatisfactory way of dealing with the problem. These truants are now taken care of by the school department at no expense beyond the cost of their education in a public school. The following figures are taken from the reports sent to the Superintendent's office for the past seven years.

						Enrollment	
No.	cases	taken	before	Juvenile	Court	1905-'06.....56	37,877
No.	"	"	"	"	"	1906-'07.....30	42,998
No.	"	"	"	"	"	1907-'08..... 1	46,092
No.	"	"	"	"	"	1908-'09..... 2	48,430
No.	"	"	"	"	"	1909-'10..... 3	52,054
No.	"	"	"	"	"	1910-'11..... 2	57,038
No.	"	"	"	"	"	1911-'12..... 0	67,875
No.	"	"	"	"	"	1912-'13..... 2 (est.)	80,000

"As a direct result of the work of the special schools truancy cases from the city have disappeared from the Juvenile Court calendar. This represents the saving of many boys who otherwise would have gone from one delinquency to another until they had become hardened offenders and the inmates of a reformatory.

"We can realize the extent and importance of this work only when we know that 90 per cent of our criminals begin their career as truants. Arthur J. Pillsbury, formerly Secretary of the State

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Board of Examiners, says: In nine cases out of every ten the first step on the criminal highway is taken by the *truant*. Mr. Pillsbury says also: In very self-defense children must be kept in school. There will be no diminution of criminality until this is accomplished.

"These startling statements, which are corroborated by the best authorities, demonstrate clearly that truancy is not only an educational problem, but a great social and economic problem as well. It logically follows then that money spent in correcting the truancy habit is a good investment. The special schools for truants have saved the state of California thousands of dollars during the seven years of their existence. Their work has been still more valuable and far reaching in that they have saved hundreds of boys from careers of criminality and started them well on the road to upright living and good citizenship.

"Boys are kept in these schools for periods of varying length, ranging from a few days to several months. More than 95 per cent make good after their stay in the special schools. This result is rather remarkable when the fact is considered that no boy who has been excluded from the regular schools for any cause, has been refused admission to the special schools. The troublesome, disagreeable, disorderly boy is a most valuable asset and the school must not refuse him a place just because his independent nature refuses to conform to arbitrary standards that even experts cannot accept.

"The special schools have demonstrated the fact that truants will attend school when school conditions are natural and the boy is not compelled to adjust himself to an environment artificial in its nature and detrimental to the individual growth and development of the independent boy. As a direct result of these schools expulsions have disappeared from the Los Angeles schools, suspensions are reduced to a minimum, and the so-called bad boy has practically ceased to be a problem there."

The subject matter of the above extract is a sufficient argument for the parental school as an agent of preventive criminology.

ROBERT H. GAULT.

LEGITIMATE LIMITS OF COUNSEL IN SUMMING UP.

The public knew that some lawyers were morally rotten. But the public was not aware that lawyers openly declared their rottenness and justified it, or revealed their rottenness and thought it purity.

The profession of law is confronting a perilous time. It is iniquitous. It is getting more and more so. Corruption is not only in the